Appl. No. 10/767,216
Amdt. dated June 10, 2008
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2161

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously Presented) An image processing system for searching images on a network, the image processing system comprising:

(a)   a search engine;

(b)   an image analyzer coupled to said search engine, said image analyzer for comparing first and second images provided thereto from said search engine, wherein:

the first image is associated with a first code associated with a first predetermined textual annotation,

the second image is associated with a second code associated with a second predetermined textual annotation,

the first code is descriptive of at least a region of the first image,

the second code is descriptive of at least a region of the second image, and

the image analyzer uses image analysis of the first and second images along with a comparison of the first and second codes in determining if the first and second images are likely to compare favorably.

2.   (Previously Presented)   The system of Claim 1 further comprising an input system coupled to one of said search engine and said image analyzer, said input system comprising at least one of: a graphical user interface; a facsimile system; a camera system; a scanner; a network connection; and a video system.

3.   (Previously Presented)   The system of Claim 21 wherein the matching algorithm defines at least one particular region of an image and at least one particular measurement to make on pixels within each of the at least one particular image region.

4.   (Previously Presented)   The system of Claim 3 wherein the matching algorithm defines at least one measurement to make on one or more pixels in an image region neighboring the one particular image region.

5.   (Previously Presented)   The system of Claim 1 further comprising a storage device having at least one image stored therein coupled to at least one of said a-search engine and said image analyzer.

6. - 20.   (Canceled)

21.   (Previously Presented)   The system of Claim 1 wherein said image analyzer is provided information specific to a particular application to modify a matching algorithm used in determining if the first and second images compare favorably.

22.   (Previously Presented)   An image processing system for processing images stored on a network, the image processing system comprising:
        a search engine coupled to the network;
        an image analyzer coupled to said search engine, wherein:
                the first image is associated with a first code,
                the second image is associated with a second code,
                the first code is descriptive of the first image's content and is determined
        before matching by the image analyzer,
                the second code is descriptive of the second image's content and is
        determined before matching by the image analyzer, and

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the image analyzer automatically analyzes the first and second images and the first and second codes in determining if the first and second images are likely to compare favorably; and

an input system coupled to at least one of said search engine and said image analyzer, wherein the input system is accessible from the Internet.

23.   (Previously Presented)   The image processing system for processing images stored on the network as recited in claim 22, wherein said image analyzer is provided information specific to a particular application to modify a matching algorithm used in determining if the first and second images compare favorably.

24.   (Previously Presented)   The image processing system for processing images stored on the network as recited in claim 22, wherein said input system comprising of at least one of: a graphical user interface; a facsimile system; a camera system; a scanner; a network connection; and a video system.

25. - 35.   (Canceled)

36.   (Previously Presented)   The system of Claim 1, wherein the search algorithm is automatically tailored to a subset of possible image factors that can be automatically analyzed, whereby the image analyzer automatically learns which factors are important in matching images.

37.   (Previously Presented)   The system of Claim 1, wherein:

the second image is part of a plurality of images, which are associated with a plurality of codes,

the image analyzer compares the first code and the plurality of codes to find a subset of the plurality of images that compare favorably, wherein the second image is part of the subset.

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38.   (Previously Presented)   The system of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second predetermined textual annotations is human determined.

39.   (Previously Presented)   The image processing system for processing images stored on the network as recited in claim 22, wherein the first code is textual and derived with manual determination.

40. - 68.   (Canceled)